Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Proposed Amendment) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on <u>an assessment of actual response times associated with</u> one or more responses <u>received from an unknown second source</u> to one or more requests <u>issued from a first source to the unknown second source</u>,

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

~~wherein the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment of the response times,~~

<u>correlating</u> ~~the response times are correlated~~ to a physical proximity between the verifier and [[a]] <u>the</u> first source of the one or more requests, and between the verifier and [[a]] <u>the</u> second source of the one or more responses; ~~and~~

~~wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times for detection of unauthorized users, between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times, such that the abnormal lag times are stored~~

<u>a storage medium for storing the actual response times</u> for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users

<u>wherein each of the one or more requests issued from the first source comprise a request for access to randomly selected source information from the unknown second source,</u>

wherein <u>the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically significant difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected.</u>

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5.   (Proposed Amendment) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on <u>an assessment of actual response times associated with</u> one or more responses <u>received from an unknown second source</u> to one or more requests <u>issued from a first source to the unknown second source,</u>

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

wherein <u>each of the one or more requests issued from the first source comprise a request for access to randomly selected source information from the unknown second source,</u>

~~the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment of the response times, wherein~~

wherein the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether the one or more responses were communicated locally to the verifier or via a network connection; and

~~wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times for detection of unauthorized users, between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times, such that the abnormal lag times are stored for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users~~

wherein <u>the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically significant difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected, and</u>

wherein <u>the one or more responses are stored for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users.</u>

6.   (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier for determining an authorization to process protected material, based on <u>an assessment of actual response times associated with</u> one or more responses <u>received</u>

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from an unknown second source to one or more requests issued from a first source to the

unknown second source, and

a timer for measuring response times associated with the one or more

responses to the one or more requests,

~~wherein~~

~~the verifier determines the authorization based at least in part on an assessment~~
~~of the response times, wherein~~

wherein the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether

the one or more responses were immediately available, or whether the one or more responses

were a result of a determination; and

wherein the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier

comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown

source unit a statistically significant difference from the expected response time of a local

source is detected

~~wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal~~
~~lag times for detection of unauthorized users, between the one or more responses and the one~~
~~or more requests based on predetermined lag times, such that the abnormal lag times are~~
~~stored for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source~~
~~of the unauthorized users.~~

7.   (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising:

a renderer for receiving a plurality of data items corresponding to a data set,

and for producing therefrom a rendering corresponding to a select data item;

a verifier, operably coupled to the renderer, for determining an authorization to

process protected material, based on an assessment of actual response times associated with

one or more responses received from an unknown second source to one or more requests

issued from a first source to the unknown second source,

the renderer being configured to preclude [[precluding]] the rendering

corresponding to the select data item in dependence upon whether other data items of the

plurality of data items are available to the renderer; and

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a timer, operably coupled to the verifier and the renderer, for measuring <u>actual</u> response times associated with responses to requests for the other data items from the renderer,

[[wherein]]

<u>wherein</u> the verifier precludes the rendering based at least in part on an assessment of the response times; and

wherein <u>the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically significant difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected</u>

~~wherein the assessment of the response times involves ascertaining abnormal lag times for detection of unauthorized users, between the one or more responses and the one or more requests based on predetermined lag times, such that the abnormal lag times are stored for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users.~~

8.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein the assessment of the response times corresponds to determination of whether the other data items are located in physical proximity to the renderer.

9.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein the verifier is configured to form the assessment based on at least one of:

an average of the response times,

a comparison of the response times to one or more

threshold times, and

a statistical test based on the response times.

10.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein the verifier is configured to randomly select the other data items.

Claims 11-13. (Cancelled)